

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5455: An Act Concerning Penalties For and the Investigation of the Operation of Illegal Massage Establishments.

Dear Connecticut General Assembly,

I am a parent, business owner and home owner in the Black Rock Section of Bridgeport. Everyday I pass 3 "massage parlors" with my 5 yr old on her way to school. Everyday I hope my daughter doesn't ask me what they are.

Everyday I park in a municipal lot that faces the back entrance of the "massage parlor". Everyday I see clients entering through this door and not the front. Everyday I wish that this business was a clothing store, sandwich shop, book store.... a legitimate business that would add to the charm of this lovely neighborhood.

I once asked a beat cop why are the massage parlors able to stay open and operating? His answer was that they never cause any problems like the bars do. Is this a reason to ignore what we all know as an illegal business in operation?

We hear a lot about the revitalization of our city. I took a chance, I opened a business here and in the 5 years at this location, nothing has been done to change the fact that there are active houses of prostitution/massage parlors in operation. I have had potential clients refuse to come to my location because they are uncomfortable with the fact that these business are in operation across the street. We will not revitalize our cities if no one chooses to make things right and lawful.

Please pass HB5455, An Act Concerning Penalties for and the Investigation of the Operation of Illegal Massage Establishments.

We need our lawmakers to make a difference in the lives of our children, neighborhood and local economy.

Sincerely, Laura Pennock

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